



Enhancing the study and practice of Catholic peacebuilding ▪ August 29, 2014

FEATURES

The Journey to Peace in South Sudan ▪ Sr. Akumu Lily Grace, CMS

It has taken me a couple of months now reflecting on South Sudan's conflict that erupted in Juba.... The question that lingers in my mind is; "Was this conflict necessary?" [Continue reading](#) (1 page).

Teaching this fall? ▪ The CPN website features [course syllabi and curricula](#) related to Catholic peacebuilding. [Contribute your syllabus by email.](#)

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Our next issue will feature educational and fellowship programs administered by CPN partners and/or related to Catholic peacebuilding. Submit info on a program by [emailing Kristi](#).

NEWS: WHERE THE CHURCH BUILDS PEACE

Colombia: National Catholic Reconciliation Network Established ▪ The inaugural meeting of the National Catholic Reconciliation Network of Colombia took place in Bogotá from August 19-22, 2014. The Network has been developed by the *Secretariado Nacional de Pastoral Social/Cáritas Colombiana* of the Colombian Bishops' Conference, of which Msgr. Héctor Fabio Henao is the Director. Fr. Robert Schreiter, C.P.P.S., of Catholic Theological Union provided [theological input on peace and](#)

[reconciliation](#) (Spanish). The Network will coordinate and promote peacebuilding work in all the ecclesiastical jurisdictions of the country.

Colombia: Church Launches Week of Peace ▪ The theme for this year's *Semana por la Paz* is "*Ganemos con la Paz...Reconciliémonos*" ("Win through peace: Let us reconcile"). Emphasizing the responsibility of citizens to build peace, it is led by a coalition of organizations including the *Secretariado Nacional de Pastoral Social/Cáritas Colombiana* and Pax Christi International. For this occasion, Msgr. Héctor Fabio Henao [described four key aspects of peacebuilding in Colombia](#). Dioceses across the country launched local events; read about efforts in the Archdiocese of [Villavicencio and hear](#) an interview with Msgr. Oscar Urbina Ortega, and [get an update from the Diocese of Cúcuta](#) (Spanish). [Read a general summary of the week here](#).

Colombia: Church Accompanies Victims to Havana Peace Talks, Cardinal Preaches Mercy ▪ The president of the Colombian bishops, Archbishop Luis Augusto Castro Quiroga of Tunja, and Fr. Darío Echeverri, Secretary of the National Conciliation Commission, accompanied the first group of conflict victims to the peace talks in Havana. [Learn more](#) and read [the interview with Fr. Echeverri](#) (both in Spanish). Read Ginny Bouvier's in-depth [blog post](#) on the state of the peace talk (English). Meanwhile, the third World Apostolic Congress on Mercy took place in Bogotá. Cardinal-Archbishop Rubén Salazar Gomez of Bogotá delivered an address reflecting on the violence in Colombia and describing God's loving offer of mercy to both victims and perpetrators. [Read more](#) and download the text if desired (Spanish, 11 pages).

Mindanao: Catholic Bishops and Educators on "Working towards a Reconciled Diversity" ▪ On April 10, 2014, the Catholic Bishops and Educators of Mindanao convoked religious, civil society, and political leaders for Conversations on Peacebuilding in Mindanao ([summary](#)) and released a two-page [statement](#) on the contribution of Catholic institutions to a just, lasting peace in Mindanao and Sulu, in light of the signing of the [Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro](#) on March 27. The statement offers concrete goals in the areas of dialogue, peace education, communications, and participation.

Philippines: Cardinal Hopes Papal Visit Pushes Mindanao Peace ▪ Cardinal-Archbishop Orlando Beltran Quevedo of Cotabato, Mindanao, expressed hope concerning Pope Francis' upcoming visit to the Philippines (mid-January), explaining the need for dialogue and political and economic justice in Mindanao in addition to the peace accords. Read stories from [CNS](#) and the [Philippine Daily Inquirer](#). For the text of his August 5 speech to the Knights of Columbus in Orlando, Florida, [click here](#). The Bishops had released [this pastoral letter](#) in preparation for the visit of Pope Francis.

Philippines: Lay Group Calls Attention to Peace Process amid Vote ▪ Promotion of Church People's Response (PCPR) Secretary General Nardy Sabino calls on leaders to focus on building peace in Mindanao, not sacrificing the common good to electoral politics. [Read the story online](#).

South Sudan: Dinka and Nuer Churches Lead Mediations ▪ The National Platform for Peace and Reconciliation (NPPR) has initiated a community-based peace process in Jonglei state with Dinka and Nuer church leaders taking the lead in mediating the talks. [Read the press release](#).

South Sudan: Catholic Radio Station Censored, Journalist Detained ▪ On Saturday, August 16, South Sudan security agents raided Bakhita Radio premises, taking the building key and detaining a news editor for four days. Bakhita Radio reports on many topics of interest to local Catholics, including local politics and peace talks in Addis Ababa. [Read an article](#) from an independent Sudanese-South Sudanese radio station. [Read an article](#) from Zenit news, including comment from a presidential spokesperson.

Nigeria: Church Responds to Boko Haram ▪ Cardinal Fernando Filoni [denounced persecution](#) in Iraq and Nigeria. A recent Boko Haram attack [caused 11,000 to flee](#), while Archbishop Alfred Adewale Martins of Lagos [commented](#) on Boko Haram violence.

Uganda: Sister Builds Post-Conflict Reconciliation via Girls' School ▪ The *National Catholic Register* interviewed Sr. Rosemary Nyirumbe about her leadership to give

former girl soldiers/wives a fresh start, thus building peace in their communities. [Read the interview](#) and [an article on HuffPost](#). Sr. Rosemary is one of TIME's [100 Most Influential People in 2014](#).

Korea: Pope Francis Press Conference on Intervention, Victims, Future Ecology Encyclical ▪ In a press conference, Pope Francis discusses drawing close to victims such as the “comfort women” of WWII, the right to stop unjust aggression in Iraq, Vatican-China relations, the model of inter-religious cooperation in Albania, a future encyclical on ecology, and more. [Read the English translation online](#).

Middle East: Pope, Patriarch, Bishops, Lay Leaders Call for End to Violence in Iraq, Syria ▪ Reports have prompted statements from Catholic leaders at all levels. Read many of them here:

- Pope Francis: [8.19](#), [8.10 Angelus](#), [8.9 to UNSG](#), [8.8](#), [8.7](#)
- Vatican: UN Rep. Abp. Tomasi ([8.15](#), [8.9](#)), [Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue](#), [Cor Unum](#)
- Cardinal Filoni, [8.26](#), [8.22](#), [8.21](#), [8.20](#), [8.18](#), [8.12](#)
- Patriarch Sako: [8.24](#), [8.22](#), [8.18 with Cardinal Filoni](#), [8.13](#), [7.24 to Ban Ki-Moon](#), [7.17](#)
- Bishops: [European Bishops \(CCEE\)](#), [Southern African Bishops](#), [Syrian Bishop](#), [Bishop of UK Armed Forces](#)
- Organizations: [Caritas Int'l President](#), [Religions for Peace](#), [Knights of Columbus](#), [Sant'Egidio \(for Aleppo\)](#)
- On the Ground: [Dominican Sisters of Saint Catherine of Siena-Iraq](#), [CRS Iraq and Egypt](#)

RESOURCES & OPPORTUNITIES

Book: Role of the Church in the Sudanese Civil War (Ashworth) ▪ John Ashworth co-authored *The Voice of the Voiceless: The Role of the Church in the Sudanese Civil war 1983-2005* with Dr. Haruun Ruun, Amb. Emmanuel LoWilla, and Prof. Maura Ryan. [Learn how to get a copy near you](#). The e-book is expected to be available around October 2014.

Publication: Role of Business in Interfaith Understanding & Peace ▪ The UN Global Compact Business for Peace platform and the Religious Freedom & Business Foundation highlight how businesses can promote interfaith understanding and peace. The resource is called *Business: A Powerful Force for Interfaith Understanding and Peace*. [Learn more and download it online.](#)

Katongole at CTU: "On Learning to Betray One's People" ▪ Fr. Emmanuel Katongole will deliver the 2014 Louis J. Luzbetak Lecture for the Cardinal Bernardin Center at Catholic Theological Union, to take place on September 29 at 4:00 PM. It is entitled "On Learning to Betray One's People: The Gospel and a Culture of Peace in Africa."

Event: Sant'Egidio & Princeton to Host "Poverty and Peacemaking" ▪ On September 19–20, 2014, the "Poverty and Peacemaking" conference will convene local and international religious leaders, scholars, practitioners, community partners, government and agency representatives, students, and philanthropists, to focus on the role of poverty alleviation as a critical component in the building of peace. Several CPN figures plan to attend the conference at Princeton. [See the conference website.](#)

Call for Papers: Engaging Pedagogies in Catholic Higher Education ▪ Manuscripts are currently being accepted for a new journal, [Engaging Pedagogies in Catholic Higher Education \(EPiCHE\)](#). It is an open access peer-reviewed journal dedicated to the advancement of the theory, research, policy and practice of civic engagement, community-based research, service-learning, leadership, and social justice education in the context of Catholic higher education. [Read the call for papers online.](#)

Tenure-Track Faculty Search: University of St. Thomas (MN) ▪ The University of St. Thomas (Minnesota) is undertaking a search for a Justice & Peace Studies tenure-track faculty member this fall. [Find details on the post and application process here.](#)

Visiting Research Fellowships: Kroc Institute for International Peace

Studies ▪ The University of Notre Dame's Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies invites scholars to apply for Visiting Research Fellowships for the 2015-2016 academic year (one or two semesters). The Institute seeks scholars who will actively integrate their research with ongoing Kroc research initiatives in Gender, Peacebuilding & Post-Accord Transformation; Diaspora Communities, Conflict & Peacebuilding; and other topics in Peace Studies. [Apply online here.](#)

The **Catholic Peacebuilding Network (CPN)** is a voluntary network of practitioners, academics, clergy and laity from around the world which seeks to enhance the study and practice of Catholic peacebuilding, especially at the local level. The CPN aims to deepen bonds of solidarity among Catholic peacebuilders, share and analyze “best practices,” expand the peacebuilding capacity of the Church in areas of conflict, and encourage the further development of a theology of a just peace. While it is a Catholic network, the CPN believes that authentic and effective Catholic peacebuilding involves dialogue and collaboration with those of other religious traditions and all those committed to building a more just and peaceful world.

Please send information and contributions on Catholic peacebuilding to khaas3@nd.edu.

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